

Teaching Kids about Firearm Safety

Half of U.S. homes have guns. So, you should talk with your children about firearms, whether or not you have any. All children need to know that guns are not toys – they can kill or hurt kids – FOR REAL.

Small Children Should Not be Handling Guns. Teach Them, if They Do Find a Gun:

- Do not touch.
- Leave the area.
- Tell an adult immediately.
- Repeat this message often, especially when you see guns on TV or in your child's play.

Kids from 6 to 12 are Very Curious about Guns:

- Remind them that guns, and the damage they do, are real.
- Never leave a child unsupervised with a gun.
- Teach children to handle guns safely, and always do it too.

Teens are Still Learning that Real Life is Different from TV, Video Games, and Movies

They often act without thinking things through. Among NH male teens (to age 24), firearms are used five times more often in suicides than in homicides. Help keep our young people safe.

- Stress the need to solve problems without guns or violence.
- If you do keep firearms, store them locked up and unloaded and keep ammunition locked up in a separate location. Teens, however, are often able to access things we try to keep hidden.
- Learn to look for signs of trouble in your teen.
- Seek outside help if you are concerned. To prevent potential suicides, temporarily remove all guns from your home.

The Negligent Storage of Firearms Law RSA 650-c:1 makes it a violation to store a loaded firearm so a child can gain access to it without permission if the weapon is used recklessly or threateningly.



For more Fact Sheets please go to www.ParentHelpNH.org

Children's Hospital at Dartmouth, Injury Prevention Center, NH Department of Health and Human Services, NH Department of Education, NH Pediatric Society, SAFE KIDS NH & Partnership for a DrugFreeNH.org